



LASSEN COUNTY
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

March 6, 2003, 1:30 p.m.
1345 Barry Creek Plaza, Suite B
Susanville, California

Commissioners Present: Karol Merten, Doug McCoy, Mae Sherman, Bobby Malone, Janice Irvin, Sheral Thorlaksson, Patsy Jiminez

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Elam, Jim Chapman, Patsy Jimenez, Brian Dahle
Alternate, Kathy Colvin, Alternate

Commission Staff: Laura Roberts, Kyle Devine

Community Members: Shawnee Adams, Michelle Casella, Cheryl Smith

Special Guests: Louise Steenkamp, Mary Sanders

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** Chairperson, Karol Merten called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. The Chairperson welcomed everyone, and all introduced themselves.
2. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Commissioner Merten suggested adding Evaluation Committee, and Strategic Plan Review as items under Reports. Commissioner Irvin moved that the amended agenda be approved as presented, Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion, there was no discussion, and the motion was unanimously approved.
4. **Consent Calendar:** The consent calendar was presented. Commissioner Irvin moved to approve the consent calendar. Commissioner Sherman seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Public Hearing on CCFC Annual Report:** The public hearing was opened at 1:42 p.m. There were no comments on the report. The hearing was closed at 1:45 p.m. Commissioner Jiminez moved that the report be accepted. Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
6. **Oral Health Initiative:** Commissioner Merten reviewed the results of the Special Meeting that was held regarding the oral health crisis in Lassen County Children. She reported that the dentist from Modoc County will not be coming to work in Susanville. A review of the School Readiness match funding was considered. It appears that approximately \$130,000 of the match funding for school readiness is over match requirements and can be reassigned to an oral health initiative. Laura Roberts explained that a Prop 10 investment would be one piece of a larger community based initiative that would be prepared for submission to the California Endowment and other potential funders. The applicant for such an initiative might be an organization such as Northeastern Rural Health. A percentage of any funds assigned to oral health will also count as match for the Westwood School Readiness project. Commissioner McCoy questioned whether the funds would be assigned to Northeastern specifically or to the proposal that was to be submitted to the Commission by Northeastern. He stated that he would be concerned about assigning funds today to a specific

agency without seeing a detailed proposal. It was clarified that the funds would be merely allocated for a more comprehensive community based oral health initiative and would not be assigned specifically. The opportunity to react to a comprehensive proposal would come before the Commission at a later meeting. After lengthy discussion, a motion to allocate \$130,000 to a local oral health initiative was made by Commissioner Irvin. Commissioner Jiminez seconded the motion. Discussion: Commissioner Merten stated that we want to be sure that we do not in any way jeopardize the ability to meet the requirements of the match funding for the School Readiness Project. It appears from the figures presented that it will not be a problem to reassign some of the match funds. There were no negatives voiced to the concept. The motion passed unanimously.

7. **Child Abuse Prevention Month:** Michelle Casella from CPS stated that a group has formed to address promotion of Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Commission offered to help promote the event. Commissioner Irvin moved to help support the event such as by passing out ribbons, Commissioner Malone seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

8. **Statewide Evaluation:** Louise Steenkampf and Mary Sanders presented information about the statewide evaluation process, PEDS (Prop 10 Evaluation Data System), and their coaching and technical assistance responsibilities to the local commission. Discussion ensued to concerning what PEDS can do in comparison to ABS. Do we need ABS or will PEDS suffice. There will need to be a great deal of exploration of systems to see what each will do. There is a training on PEDS and the new statewide annual report in Sacramento on April 2. There will also be trainings on PEDS in Redding sometime at the end of March.

9. **Annual Conference:** Mae Sherman , Kathy Colvin, and Patsy Jiminez have expressed interest in attending the conference. Four rooms have been reserved for potential participants. Registration forms have not been received yet. Lisa Holmstrom and Barbara Tiner will be attending from ComPAC.

10. **Reports:**

FRC Projects: Barbara Tiner reported that the WFRC is moving along well. They have received donations from the community for the After School Program. There are 17 enrollees in the program. The Big Valley FRC Project is looking for a site to locate, and recruitment for a director is in progress. Funds were allocated to ComPAC for the Big Valley Project. They have received 3 applications for the Director position. The Home Visiting Project is finalizing the policies and procedures. There are 17 families waiting for services from the Home Visiting Project. Aimee Osborn is making home visits for lactation consulting services. CAPC came for their site visit regarding AmeriCorps. They asked Lisa to help them train other counties beginning to participate in AmeriCorps projects. They visited WFRC during the site visit. There will be 3 or 4 more AmeriCorps workers hired as soon as the hiring freeze is lifted.

Evaluation Committee: This is a committee to evaluate contractor performance. Bobby, Jim, Patsy and Jan are the Committee. They can meet before the next meeting to complete the evaluation of the contractor.

Strategic Plan Review: Last year in May there was a retreat to do strategic planning. The Strategic Plan document is to be reviewed annually. The suggested date to review the plan this year is May 1st from 1:00 – 4:30. This is a regular Commission meeting date.

Miscellaneous: Barbara Tiner commented that the ComPAC Board needs an alternate member so if anyone knows of an interested person, refer them to Barbara Tiner.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura J. Roberts
Executive Director